

SELECTION OF JOHN WOODEN FOR MEDAL OF FREEDOM IS MOST DESERVED

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the incredible achievements of John Wooden, famed educator, coach, and basketball player. Coach Wooden was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the Nation's highest civilian honor, in a ceremony at the White House today.

What Coach Wooden accomplished during his 40 years of coaching will never be surpassed. He compiled an 885–203 record, leading the UCLA Bruins to 10 NCAA Men's Basketball Championships. During his time at UCLA, the Bruins had four undefeated seasons and 88 consecutive victories, including 38 straight NCAA tournament victories. Among his many honors Wooden was named NCAA College Basketball Coach of the Year six times. Coach Wooden nurtured and inspired many of the greatest basketball players of all time who would go on to fame in their own right, including Kareem Abdul-Jabbar and Bill Walton.

Wooden was also a standout athlete. Born and raised in Martinsville, Indiana, Wooden led his high school squad to the state title in 1927. Later, at Purdue University, he won letters in basketball and baseball as a freshman, and then went on to captain Purdue to the 1932 National Collegiate Championship. Wooden's accomplishments on the basketball court led to him being one of only two men enshrined in the Basketball Hall of Fame as both player and coach.

But it is his role as an educator where he has made his greatest mark. Wooden developed the "Pyramid of Success", a graphic representation of the ideals that form the basis of Wooden's outlook on life and explain much of his success on and off the court. Emphasizing such traits as skill, poise, and confidence, the Pyramid of Success has helped millions be their best when their best was needed.

Coach Wooden has not been content to sit back as a legend. He is a best-selling author, active on the public speaking circuit, and has devoted much of his energies to public service. Wooden was the first sports figure to be awarded the Bellarmine Medal of Excellence, whose other recipients have included Mother Teresa and Walter Cronkite. He received the 1994 Landry Medal for Inspiration to American Youth and also has a number of honorary degrees. The National Father's Day Committee has named him "Grandfather of the Year" and the National Urban League has honored him for his years of humanitarian service.

Mr. Speaker, John Wooden's philosophy benefits us all. Be quick, but don't hurry. It's not how tall you are, but how tall you play. Make each day your masterpiece. Character is what you really are; reputation is what you are perceived to be. Through his life's work and his great accomplishments, Coach John Wooden has earned every award he has received. More importantly, he has earned our respect and admiration. Please join me in congratulating this legendary coach and educator on his latest award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

EXPRESSING APPRECIATION TO JONITA WHITAKER

HON. DONALD M. PAYNE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation to an outstanding professional, Ms. Jonita Whitaker, who has served as a State Department Pearson Fellow in my Washington Congressional Office for the past year. Under this excellent program, Foreign Service Officers work on Capitol Hill, learning the legislative process and sharing their expertise in international relations. I believe the program provides tremendous benefits to both members of Congress and to the State Department professionals who participate.

Over the past year, Jonita has proven to be a shining star on my staff. As a member of the House International Relations Committee, I have benefited tremendously from her extensive knowledge, her expertise in foreign affairs and immigration law, her foreign language skills, and most of all, her passionate dedication to public service. Jonita quickly mastered the many complex global issues we deal with on a daily basis.

Jonita has played a leading role as an advisor on a number of key issues, including developments in Iraq, the movement to return the Parthenon Marbles to Greece, efforts to reach a political settlement in Cyprus, the peace process in Northern Ireland, daily updates on developments in Africa, and the eradication of polio world-wide, among her many other contributions. Reports she provided to me when she traveled to Northern Ireland to witness the Orange Order parades were enormously helpful.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have this opportunity to thank Jonita Whitaker for all of her hard work and to wish her continued success as she moves forward in her career.

TRIBUTE TO LARRY KISLING

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to stand before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to Larry Kisling of Grand Junction, Colorado. Through hard work and dedication, Larry has received national attention for the quality of his competitive racing engines, which he builds and maintains for racing teams across the country. Larry's work provides him with the ability to be involved in the sport he loves, and I am proud to speak of his accomplishments here today.

Moving to Grand Junction in 1990, Larry set up his shop and began business. Larry's hard work is evident in his high quality products, which is why his customers keep coming back. Larry's business expanded so much that he recently moved into a new location and a brand new 3,400 square foot facility. Today he works on all kinds of engines, from forklifts to boats.

Larry's passion, however, will always be high-performance racing engines, despite the

fact that they are the least profitable part of the company. Larry does the work because he loves it, noting the personal satisfaction he gets when he sees one of his engines on the track. Larry gets the most fulfillment when a driver returns to his shop and lets him know his race car has never gone faster.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today in applauding the hard work of Larry Kisling. I commend Larry on his successful business endeavors and the respect he has gained from his peers. I wish him all the best in the years to come.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF APSA SCHOLARS PROGRAM

HON. MICHAEL G. OXLEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, the American Political Science Association (APSA) is commemorating the 50th anniversary of its Congressional Fellowship Program this year. I join my colleagues in commending APSA for the service that it has provided to the U.S. Congress.

APSA fellows have made a valuable contribution to the work of personal and committee offices in both the House and Senate. The program draws on the talents of a variety of professionals who are interested in learning about and contributing to the legislative process. The APSA program is held in high regard by Members for the quality of the fellows it makes available to offices at no charge. Among its distinguished alumni is Vice President DICK CHENEY.

My office has been pleased to host two fellows in recent years. Tim Johnson, a 1994 journalism fellow, remained on my staff and currently serves as my Legislative Director and Press Secretary. Ben Brown, a 2001 fellow from the FDIC, brought valuable banking expertise to the House Financial Services Committee during its formative first months.

The APSA Congressional Fellows Program merits our recognition for the ongoing contributions that it makes to the legislative process.

FREEDOM FIESTA WEEK

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, in my home district of El Paso, Texas, Operation Iraqi Freedom will always be remembered for the tragic ambush of the 507th Maintenance Company. In a city that is home to nearly 60,000 veterans and thousands of troops and their family members stationed at Fort Bliss, we felt for these soldiers as if they were members of our own families. We mourned for those who had lost their lives, and prayed for the safe and speedy return of those who had been captured. The losses suffered by the 507th Maintenance Company were the first combat casualties to be experienced by Fort Bliss in at least a quarter century. These soldiers are heroes, and they are more than deserving of all of the honor and respect they have received.

The soldiers of the 507th Maintenance Company, while exceptional, are not the only heroes who call Fort Bliss home. Each and every one of the more than 3,600 other United States Army soldiers who were deployed to Iraq from Fort Bliss is also a hero, and all of their sacrifices should be remembered. The thousands of soldiers who contributed to the war effort from home and the family members who offered their unwavering support must also be recognized. El Paso is a city full of soldiers—they and their families deserve our respect and gratitude.

El Paso is proud to be the home of so many of our nation's soldiers. During the week of August 3–10, 2003, El Paso will celebrate "Freedom Fiesta Week," a series of events to welcome home and honor the region's armed services personnel. The celebration will kick off on August 3rd with the "Freedom Fiesta Picnic," featuring free food and drinks and live music and entertainment. Throughout the week, active duty and reserve military personnel and their families will have free or reduced admission on selected days to Wet n' Wild Water Park, Western Playland Amusement Park, the El Paso Diablos, the El Paso Zoo, and various clubs and restaurants in Downtown El Paso. The week will culminate in Saturday's parade, featuring more than 6,000 of our Fort Bliss soldiers.

The organization of Freedom Fiesta Week was a collaborative effort, and I would like to commend the Greater El Paso Chamber of Commerce, the El Paso Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, the El Paso Black Chamber of Commerce, the City of El Paso, the County of El Paso and the Association of the U.S. Army for their hard work in planning what promises to be an exciting week. I must also thank all the organizations participating in Freedom Fiesta Week for their generosity. I do not have the words to express my thanks to our troops, but Mr. Speaker, it is with events like Freedom Fiesta Week that we can begin to show them how grateful we are for their hard work and dedication during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

HONORING JAMES DOUGLAS
THOMAS

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise before this body of Congress and this nation today to pay tribute to a selfless community servant and dedicated veteran from my district, Doug Thomas of Craig, Colorado. An active member of the Craig community, Doug is the newly elected Chaplain for the American Legion in the State of Colorado. I would like to join the Craig community and American Legion in honoring Doug's commitment and recognizing this distinct honor.

When members of American Legion had the opportunity to select their new Chaplain, Doug was an obvious choice. His reputation as a dedicated Chaplain had preceded him; Doug had done great work as both the District Chaplain and Chaplain of Post 2700. He made it clear at the state conference that he would work harder than any other nominee, an attribute that is essential to the position.

Doug's commitment to the American Legion is evident in his plans as Chaplain. He hopes

to visit all 164 American Legion Posts throughout the state during his one-year term, sponsor workshops at state conventions, and start a Prayer Program that will be mailed to families around the state. Doug enjoys all aspects of the Chaplain position, but he particularly enjoys having an impact on families across the state.

Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues here today in applauding Doug's civic-mindedness and in recognizing this prestigious honor. This recognition to Doug for the work he does in his community is long overdue, and I am proud to bring his achievements to the attention of this body of Congress today. Congratulations and thanks again, Doug, for your many years of hard work on behalf of Craig and the State of Colorado. May you have many more to come!

INTRODUCTION OF THE STEVE GRISSOM RELIEF FUND ACT

HON. DAVID E. PRICE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, today my colleague NATHAN DEAL and I have introduced the Steve Grissom Relief Fund Act.

This legislation would compensate individuals who contracted AIDS through HIV-contaminated blood products and transplants. It is modeled on the bipartisan Ricky Ray Hemophilia Relief Act of 1998, and honors the late Steve Grissom, a North Carolina resident who was infected with HIV while undergoing treatment for leukemia.

A study conducted by the Institute of Medicine at the request of Congress found that "blood became a vector for HIV infection in the early and mid-1980s and caused more than half of the 16,000 hemophiliacs and over 12,000 blood transfusion recipients to contract AIDS." The Food and Drug Administration, the report claimed, failed to protect the blood supply when it chose not to implement screening options recommended by the Centers for Disease Control in 1983. In addition, the report recommended that a fund be established to compensate people who have become infected with HIV from contaminated blood products.

In 1995, legislation was introduced to help hemophiliacs who contracted HIV through such transfusions. The Ricky Ray Act established a trust fund for making one-time payments of \$100,000 to persons with hemophilia who contracted HIV through tainted blood products. The bill passed with overwhelming support, and was fully funded in 2001. However, the bill did not address the problem of people like Steve Grissom, who received blood transfusions or transplants for other reasons. Our bill would resolve the current inequity and extend the same benefits to non-hemophiliacs, their secondarily infected spouses, and children infected perinatally.

Steve Grissom was a resident of North Carolina's 4th District and my constituent. An Army veteran, Steve was an avid pilot and outdoorsman, a loyal husband, a loving father, and a tireless advocate for others. He advanced legislation for terminally ill parents at the state level, and founded the National Association for Victims of Transfusion-Acquired

AIDS (NAVTA) organization. In 1998, he tried very hard to get individuals like himself included in the Ricky Ray Act. However, rather than contribute to the demise of this legislation, Steve pulled back so that at least some would be compensated for the horrors that occurred during the early 1980s.

Americans who have contracted AIDS through HIV-contaminated products deserve the same consideration regardless of whether they are hemophiliacs. We owe it to people like Steve Grissom, and their survivors, to try and compensate for this terrible tragedy.

I invite my colleagues to join us in completing the work begun with the Ricky Ray Act by cosponsoring the Steve Grissom Relief Fund Act.

HONORING THE 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 23, 2003

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the March on Washington, the most significant civil rights demonstration in United States history. The march was a watershed event that led to the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

On August 28, 1963, more than 250,000 people of all ages, races and religions traveled from every corner of America to Washington on "freedom" buses and trains. Some participants walked as far as 230 miles to reach our nation's capital. The march was by far the largest and most peaceful of its time and its volume greatly exceeded the expected 100,000 participants. The purpose of the March for Jobs and Freedom was to encourage passage of the Civil Rights Act presented to Congress by President John F. Kennedy. The United Auto Workers union, one of the march's biggest sponsors, printed hundreds of signs with slogans such as "UAW Says Jobs and Freedom for Every American."

My dear friend, colleague and genuine American hero JOHN LEWIS, had the honor of speaking alongside Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who concluded the event with his renowned "I Have A Dream" speech. Dr. King's eloquent words should be remembered today: "When we allow freedom to ring, when we let it ring from every village and every hamlet, from every state and every city, we will be able to speed up that day when all God's children, black men and white men, Jews and Gentiles, Protestants and Catholics, will be able to join hands and sing in the words of the old Negro spiritual: 'Free at last! Free at last! Thank God Almighty, we are free at last!'"

Reverend King's powerful words did not fall on deaf ears. After President Kennedy's tragic death, his successor President Lyndon Johnson, in his first address to Congress and the nation, called for the passage of the Civil Rights Act. "Let us continue," he declared, promising that "the ideas and the ideals which [Kennedy] so nobly represented must and will be translated into effective action." Finally, on July 2, 1964, President Johnson signed into law the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the most important piece of civil rights legislation in United States history.